

## **Maggie Walker Post-Visit Activity**

**Grade 4/5**

**Lesson: Building a Better Community**

**Ties to Virginia Standards of Learning: History / Social Studies VS.8c, SOL VS.9a, SOL VS.9d**

**Materials Needed:** 1930s photos of buildings in Jackson Ward (Emporium, bank, IOSL, churches, school, funeral homes, newspaper, hotels, theatre)

### **Building a Better Community Activity:**

**Background Info.** During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Virginia transitioned economically and socially from a rural, agricultural society to a more urban, industrialized society. Virginia cities began to grow. People moved from rural to urban areas of Virginia for economic job opportunities. As more people traveled, Virginia's cities grew with more people, businesses, and factories. Jackson Ward was a thriving African American business community in Richmond, VA during the early 1920s to late 1940s. Maggie Walker lived and worked in Jackson Ward, starting several businesses including a bank, Emporium and newspaper. Mrs. Walker's presence in Jackson Ward had a historical significance during the Reconstruction years.

**Activity goal:** Students will recall and discuss information about Richmond Virginia during the Reconstruction years and how Mrs. Walker achieved prominence through her work of building a better community.

Points to discuss with students:

1. People moved to the city from rural areas to look for jobs.
2. Jackson Ward was a thriving African American business district after the Civil War.
3. Mrs. Walker played a significant role in the creation of the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, Emporium and St. Luke Herald.

Show pictures of buildings from the Jackson Ward community. (Emporium, bank, IOSL, churches, school, funeral homes, newspaper, hotels, theatre)



**Essential Questions:** Allow for discussion

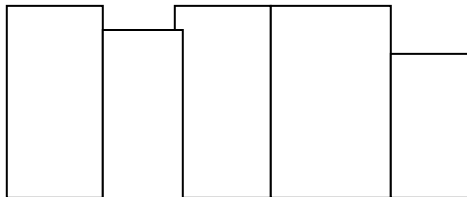
1. What changes took place in Virginia to boost the economic growth after the Civil War?
2. Why did Virginia change from an agricultural to an industrial society?
3. What caused growth in Richmond after the Civil War?
4. How and why did the Jackson Ward community grow?
5. What role did Mrs. Walker play in building a better community in Jackson Ward?

### **Art Activity: Building Jackson Ward**

**Materials Needed:** shoebox lids, paints, brushes, construction paper scraps markers

Students will use shoebox lids to create building fronts similar to those in Jackson Ward. Students will choose to create a house, store, hotel, church, theatre, newspaper, funeral home, bank, etc.

After creating the building front, the students will decide the layout and placement for building fronts. Students will place shoebox lids touching, side by side as buildings were built in Jackson Ward. Lids may be stapled together and hung on a bulletin board. The students will then write about a day in the life of Maggie Walker, as she would have visited the various buildings in her neighborhood of Jackson Ward.



sample diagram of building

